



**Testimony to the Appropriations Committee
Regarding the Governor's Proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan
Public Hearing
December 9, 2009**

To the members of the Appropriations Committee:

This letter is written in response to the Governor's proposed Deficit Mitigation Plan and our opposition to the cuts proposed in areas that directly impact children and families.

The Governor's plan includes severe cuts to programs and services which will deeply affect quality, availability, affordability and access to care and services for families in this state. We urge you to oppose cuts of funding to early care, education and after school programs.

Charter Oak State College has a long history of helping people who are in the lowest income brackets earn credentials and degrees, as well as providing education programs to those who work with children. Charter Oak provides certificates, credentials and degrees in the areas of infant-toddler, early childhood, child studies and youth development as well as a career path for early childhood and after school care professionals.

These programs contribute to positive developmental and educational outcomes for children. By training the teachers so they can provide quality education to young children, we increase the chances of the children succeeding in elementary, high school and college, thus providing a better educated workforce.

Research has shown that investment in early care and intervention services and after school programs saves taxpayers dollars in the long run by providing safe places for children and rich learning environments that improve outcomes for children and youth.

Over the years, Charter Oak College has been a strong partner with statewide agencies and the Connecticut Departments of Social Services, Education and Higher Education in its efforts to improve early care and after school programs in our state.

The Governor's proposed cuts will have long-term ramifications that will negatively affect children and families well beyond the deficit years.

We thank you for your consideration of this letter and your work on behalf of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Ed Klonoski
President